established by Government for teaching weaving, carpentry, smithery, pottery, &c., to the boys of the Sambavar community as was done in the Mysore State.

(*i*) Representation in the Assembly. For the purposes of their Sangham, they had divided the State into Nanjanad, Edanad, Anantanad, Shencottah, Tiruvalla, Kottayam and Peermade Districts. The Member prayed either to nominate separate representatives of the community to the Assembly from each Revenue Division or to give the Sangham an annual grant of Rs. 600 to enable the President or the General Secretary or both to visit the different parts of the State and study the conditions of the community with a view to suggest to Government remedial measures for its improvement and to disseminate knowledge of subjects relating to education, sanitation, agriculture and other industries by circulating among his community pamphlets, hand-bills, &c., and for arranging for the delivery of popular lectures by Government officials and private gentlemen on the above subjects under the auspices of the Sangham.

(*j*) Grants for private Sambavar schools and Mission schools. A few private schools had been started by a few leading men of the community as their children were not freely admitted into all Sirkar schools. But there was difficulty in getting duly qualified teachers who did not care to teach in Sambavar schools on lesser pay when they were given higher pay in Sirkar schools. The Member prayed that orders might be passed for the salaries paid to qualified teachers in Sirkar schools being granted to all qualified teachers in the Sambavar schools also and those employed in Mission and other aided schools.

(*k*) Half fee and other concessions. Many pupils belonging to the Sambavar community joined the Mission schools on account of the religious training they got and hence they were deprived of the benefits of the half-fee concession obtaining in Sirkar schools. The Member prayed that orders might be issued for the half-fee concession being given to the Sambavar pupils in the Mission and other aided schools also, that one free meal might be arranged to be given to the pupils of his community at mid-day, and that slates, paper and books might be supplied gratis to them as was done in the Cochin State.

(*l*) Sirkar appointments.—A few young men of the community both Hindus and Christians had passed the Elementary School Leaving Certificate and other Government and University Examinations and they should be recognised by Government conferring appointments on them.

(*m*) Moral support and assistance of Government officials to the Sangham. The Sambavar Sangham was trying to promote the material and moral advancement of the community. The Member prayed that Government might be pleased to issue instructions to all the Tahsildars and Division Peishkars to take an active interest in the feeble efforts of the Sangham and thus morally support the Sangham and its office bearers seeing that the Government of Madras, Mysore and Cochin had appointed special officers to elevate the backward communities in their respective States.

(*n*) Disposal of petitions, memorials &c., presented to Government. The Member prayed that the petitions received from Sambavar and other backward communities might be referred to the heads of departments for report instead of for disposal, as owing to the unsympathetic attitude of the higher classes no good resulted in forwarding the petitions for disposal by the subordinate officers, and requested to see that the reports were promptly received and disposed of in the Huzur and endorsements granted to the petitioners concerned.

Dewan's reply.—The representations of the Member will be carefully considered.

146. Economic distress of the ryots and some suggestions for relief.

Mr. N. Krishna Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Neyyattinkara) said that his object in taking up the subject was two-fold, firstly to inform the Government of the real condition of the ryot and his inability to bear further taxation and, secondly, to suggest some ways and means of alleviating the distress of the ryots. The condition of the ryot was pitiable. His income was insufficient for his maintenance. He had no sufficient facilities for his avocation. There were no cottage industries

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in Travancore worth the name. He had to bear enhanced taxation. The recent enhancement of the copying and process fees in the Judicial department and search fees in the Registration department told heavily upon him. Whatever might be the justification of Government for the enhancement of such fees, the fact remained that it had painfully added another burden to the already overtaxed ryot. Regarding the enhancement of certain rates in the Anchal department, there was no force in the statement that the enhanced rates were below the British Indian Postage rates; for, though the face value of an anchal card was only five cash, the public would have to pay 8 cash for it, particularly in villages and out of the way places, as it was a well known fact that one cash pieces were not sufficiently obtainable. The report of the Education Retrenchment Committee showed presentiments of a new imposition known as Education Cess. The Member described how the present education system itself entailed heavy burden on the guardians of school-going population and said that it was inadvisable to add to their embarrassments by the levy of any fresh cess. The Member hoped that, before final orders were passed on the report of the Committee, due respect would be paid to the public criticisms on the report.

There was a rumour getting current all over the State that there would be a general enhancement of taxes, fresh imposts on land, etc. The credulous ryot obsessed with such rumours would fancy for himself all sorts of impending troubles. To allay such fears and consequent discontent among the masses, the Member suggested the occasional publication of Press Communiques, contradicting popular rumours relating to the levy of fresh imposts on land, enhancement of the commutation price of paddy etc., and also clearly explaining the objects and reasons regarding the various measures that might be undertaken by Government from time to time. Regarding the assignment of puduval lands, the Member said that some of the provisions in the Bill and the proposed rules on the subject were calculated to considerably augment the economic depression of the ryot and prayed that changes be made in the Bill and the rules in the light of the criticisms already offered by other Members.

The Member next referred to Irrigation and said that there were no facilities for irrigation in his taluk and that, on the promise of Government to open a Right Bank Channel from the Petchipara dam when that was completed, the tanks in the Vilavankod and Neyyattinkara taluks were neglected. He requested Government to inaugurate a broad scheme of irrigation entirely financed by Government without harassing the people for a share of the initial expenditure and that an Irrigation department be created for the whole State in as broad a manner as possible. The Member challenged the statement that the scope for irrigation in Travancore was limited and that the Kodayar Project and the Athirapalli scheme under consideration were the only possible irrigation schemes of any considerable magnitude, and asserted that there were immense possibilities of irrigational schemes in various other parts of Travancore. As instances, he said, that a dam across Perunthenaruvi, about 7 miles higher up Rani in the Pamba river and a dam across the Neyyar river near the waterfall at Kolasseri would prove very useful for irrigation purposes.

The Member expressed his thanks to Government for having taken up the question of the restoration and the maintenance of minor irrigation tanks in the Neyyattinkara and Vilavankod taluks, but observed that the proposed scheme did not commend itself to the people. The scheme which required about 75 per cent. of the outlay to be met by the ryots themselves saddled the poor ryots with heavy financial responsibilities which neither custom nor law sanctioned. In recent times, the ryot was charged with only a small percentage of the estimated cost, while a much larger amount was spent by Government. In his present economic condition the ryot was not in a position to contribute to the cost of the restoration as he was able to do formerly. The Member hoped that the proposed scheme would be revised in the light of the above observations. Scarcity of water was seriously felt and the question was assuming more and more serious proportions. The Member prayed that immediate steps might be taken in the matter.

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The Member next said that the imposition of income tax and export duties on rubber, tea, timber and other products and the tapping of similar sources of revenue would not only remove the strain on the State finance but also provide enough funds for the improvement of irrigational facilities and the development of agricultural operations on which alone the prosperity of the ryot depended. The ryots were grateful for the manifold benefits bestowed upon them by the Agricultural department,—but, owing to financial conditions and to a small measure the ryot's conservative instincts, they were not able to effect any material change in the system of cultivation traditionally followed by them. The Member hoped that as conditions improved the ryot would be able to turn to practical effect the valuable advice given by agricultural experts.

Another subject of vital importance to the ryot was the preservation of cattle. It was incumbent on the Government to improve the local breeds of cattle so that they might be of real service to the agriculturists. The Member hoped that more veterinary hospitals would be opened in view of the increase in cattle mortality and that steps would also be taken for the stimulation of the growth of fodder crops and for the granting of loans to purchase fodder.

The Member next drew attention to co-operative societies. He suggested that strenuous efforts should be made for active propaganda work among the ryots for a dissemination of the knowledge of co-operative principles and the establishment primarily of some organisation or method whereby cultivators might obtain, without paying usurious rates of interest, the advances necessary for carrying on their business. He added that the establishment of mutual credit societies or agricultural banks under the guidance of the Co-operative department would alone remedy the present evils and that Government should infuse greater energy and activity into the working of the department.

The Member also urged for a more liberal policy regarding agricultural loans and suggested that the rules proposed to be framed under the Agricultural Loans Regulation should be framed in a liberal spirit, the interest being fixed at a low rate not exceeding the rate of interest charged for Anchal Savings Bank deposits.

In conclusion, the Member said that the existence of a complicated and iniquitous system of land tenures called for drastic and organic changes. He added that it was high time to standardise the capacity of the para instead of leaving the unfortunate tenant to the mercy of the grasping Jenmi and his formidable Karyastan.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's representation regarding the question of irrigation will receive attention. The other points raised by the Member are covered by answers already given.

147. Need for ameliorating the condition of the depressed classes.

Mr. K. P. Martandan Vaidyan (Member, Chirayinkil taluk) regretted that Government did not see their way to allow the Ezhava members to speak on the question of admission to temples and said that it had wounded the feelings of the members of his community. The Government did not even allow the members to point out that the question of admission into temples was not connected with religion.

The Member requested that Government might be pleased to adopt measures which would ameliorate the condition of the depressed classes in the manner already indicated by his brother Members.

Mr. A. K. Govinda Channar (Member, Nominated) endorsed the remarks of the previous Member and referred to his former representation on the same subject made at the 12th session of the Assembly for detailed suggestions and requested that early action might be taken to give effect to his proposals.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. The suggestions made by Mr. Channar at the 12th session of the Assembly will be considered.

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